



Saturday

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A TEST - EDITORIAL

The sacrifice of life is the supreme test of one's loyalty to his country. Following the War Department's announcement of last week that Japanese American citizens will be accepted in the United States Army, youths stand ready to undergo that test to prove they are loyal to the land of their birth.

The young men who will volunteer to serve their nation in the armed forces will be giving their utmost not only to the United States but to the entire Japanese American population, for they will be placing their lives at the disposal of this nation in an effort to prove that the great majority of the group they represent are loyal.

To many of the young men, enlistment may mean giving up, perhaps forever, hopes and aspirations for worldly success. To others it may mean the postponement of further education. But to all it means the sacrifice of individualism and the willing acceptance of a perilous military life for their country's cause and the cause of the Japanese American people.

At the same time, frankness compels us to take some exception to the fact that such volunteers will be placed in a separate unit instead of being allowed to become an assimilative and normal component of the armed forces.

We are not unaware of the value of a separate fighting unit for propaganda purposes. Certainly, any deeds of distinction performed by such a unit will be singled out for favorable comment and national attention. We are not forgetting this phase of the present opportunity.

But we believe such segregation, deleterious in civilian life, would be equally out of place in the army. We are convinced that segregation, no matter where it is practiced, is alien to the principles of American democracy.

For Americans of Japanese ancestry to accept this segregation without making their stand clear on this point would be to disregard one of the basic rights of American citizenship. We are sure that the Japanese American soldiers already serving in the armed forces of the United States would also express disapproval of any segregated fighting unit, although the opening for volunteers is entirely praiseworthy.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the new War department plan may eventually be modified to remove the onus of segregation from a group of American citizens.

45 INDEFINITE LEAVES ISSUED IN JANUARY

Forty-five indefinite leaves were issued residents who left Topaz during January, according to a report made by Frank Twohey's leave office. Of the number 30 were for those who left during the month and the remainder for workers who were out on work group leaves. Twelve were students who departed to continue their education in colleges and universities in various parts of the country.

Ten persons left the Center during January on group work leaves. The leave office also announced that 122 short term leaves were issued to persons for various reasons. Of this total about 75 were leaves for Salt Lake City.

The leave office is speeding its work to process 30 applicants daily to Washington, D.C., for indefinite leave clearances. Eighteen indefinite leave clearances, the largest number for any single day thus far, were received from Washington on Feb. 1.

Those who left for student relocation are Ben Iijima, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey; Jack Kiuchi, Western State Teachers College, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Isaac Iijima, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa; Masanori Hongo, De Paul University, Chicago, Ill.; Yutaka Kobayashi, Alfred University, Alfred, N.Y.; Ikuya Kurita and George Goto, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Seichi Adachi, Huron College, Huron, S.D.; Sumi Ohye, Western College, Oxford, Ohio; Fred Hoshiyama, Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.; Masashi Yamada, George Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; and Alice Ota, Texas University, Austin, Texas.

CO-OP ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AND TUESDAY

As important to the welfare of the residents as the recent election of Community Councilmen is the co-op assembly election on Monday night, February 8, and the congressional election on Tuesday night, February 9, stated H. Muronaka of the Consumer Co-operative Enterprise

office today. The elections will select permanent co-op assemblymen and congressmen. Two representatives from each building will attend the assembly in each block. In turn the block assembly will send 2 delegates as congressmen to the co-op congress.